

REMARKS

In the Office action, the drawings were objected to because in Figures 22(a)-22(k), the matrix notation “IIS (x,x,x)” was not clear. Applicants will explain the matrix notations used in Figures 22(a)-22(k). In Figures 22(a)-22(k), the notation “IIS(x,x,x)” is rather standard referring to the three dimensions of the matrix, e.g. row, column and page. A “:” (colon) in the matrix notation for one of the dimensions is commonly used by standard math programming languages, like MATLAB™, for example, to mean all of the elements in the dimension in which it is positioned. So, for Figures 22(a)-(c), the notation IIS(:,1,1) refers to all of the rows (four) in column 1, page 1, just as shown. That which is being illustrated in Figures 22(a)-22(c) are the “copy” and “fill” functions to fill in the rows of column 1, page 1 of the IIS matrix as described on page 37 of the specification.

Accordingly, for Figures 22(d)-22(e), the notation IIS(:, :, 1) refers to all of the rows and columns of page 1 and that which is being illustrated in Figures 22(d)-22(e) are the “copy” and “fill” functions to fill in the rows and columns of page 1 of the IIS matrix as described on page 37 of the specification. Using this same matrix notation, Figures 22(f)-22(h) illustrate the “copy” functions for filling in the rows and columns of pages 2-4, respectively, of the IIS matrix, and Figures 22(i)-22(k) illustrate the “fill” functions for filling in the remaining rows and columns of matrix pages 2-4, respectively, as described on pages 37 and 38 of the specification.

The foregoing explanation should render clear the matrix notation used for the matrix illustrations of Figures 22(a)-22(k) of the instant application, and thus, permit the objection to be withdrawn without a drawing correction. However, if the Examiner is not satisfied with the explanation and desires a drawing change, Applicants’ attorney proposes a telephone interview with the Examiner to discuss an appropriate drawing change to accommodate the Examiner.

Moreover, in the Office action, the Examiner required Applicants to correct the drawings to designate Figures 1-8 by a legend such as -- Prior Art -- . In response, Applicants are attaching to this response corrected Figures 1-8 labeled as “Replacement Sheets” in the page header as per 37 CFR 1.121(d). Formal Drawings for Figures 1-34 including the correction to Figures 1-8 are also attached to this response to satisfy the requirement of the Examiner.

Also, in the Office action, claims 1-10 were objected to because of certain specified informalities in claim 1, but would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the specified informalities. In response, claim 1 was amended to correct the specified informalities to overcome the objection as required. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection of amended claim 1 and dependent claims 2-10 be withdrawn and that such claims be allowed.

Further, in the Office action, independent claim 11, dependent claims 18 and 19 therefrom, and independent claim 33 were all rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by the admitted prior art of the instant application. Also, independent claim 42 and dependent claims 43 and 44 therefrom were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the U.S. patent no. 5,721,746, Hladik et al. Still further, claims 20 and 21 dependent from rejected claim 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art of the instant application in view of Hladik et al.

Claims 12-17 and 22-24 dependent from rejected independent claim 11, claims 34-41 dependent from rejected independent claim 33, and dependent claim 45 were all objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 25-32 were allowed.

In response, independent claim 11 was amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 12, thus rendering dependent claim 12 in the independent form of amended claim 11. Dependent claim 12 was cancelled and dependent claims 13 and 14 were amended to correct the dependency thereof. Accordingly, amended claim 11 is allowable. Further, since rejected claims 18, 19 and 20 are dependent from amended claim 11 and include all of the limitations thereof, they also are allowable for the same reason as amended claim 11.

Still further, the recitation of independent claim 11 was amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 22 and the intervening dependent claim 21 to form a new independent claim 46 which is allowable claim 22 in independent form and allowable. Dependent claims 21 and 22 were cancelled and dependent claim 23 was amended to correct the

dependency thereof. Further yet, the recitation of independent claim 11 was amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 24 and the intervening dependent claim 21 to form another new independent claim 47 which is allowable claim 24 in independent form and allowable. Dependent claim 24 was cancelled.

Further yet, rejected independent claim 33 was amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 34, thus rendering dependent claim 34 in the independent form of amended claim 33. Dependent claim 34 was cancelled and dependent claims 35, 36 and 40 were amended to correct the dependency thereof. Accordingly, amended claim 33 is allowable.

Claims 42-45 have been cancelled, thus rendering the rejection of claims 42-44 moot.

In view of the above, the remaining claims of the instant application include:

amended claim 1 and claims 2-10 dependent therefrom;

amended independent claim 11 and claims 13-20 dependent therefrom;

new independent claim 46 and claim 23 dependent therefrom;

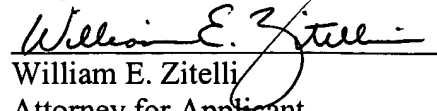
new independent claim 47;

independent claim 25 and claims 26-32 dependent therefrom;

amended independent claim 33 and claims 35-41 dependent therefrom.

It is respectfully requested that these amended, new and remaining claims of the instant application be re-examined and reconsidered for allowance based on the foregoing remarks. Since the instant application is considered in condition for allowance, an early issuance thereof if earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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